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A

SCHEME

OR,

PROPOSAL

For making a

Navigable Communication

Between the

Rivers of *Trent* and *Severn*,

In the County of *Stafford*.

By Dr. THOMAS CONGREVE,
of Wolver-Hampton.

LONDON,
Printed for E. CURLL in *Fleet-ſtreet*, 1717.

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JUL

TO

William Ward, Esq;

Knight of the Shire for the County of *Stafford*.

SIR,

I Have here sent You an Account of the Length and Fall of the *Rivers* that may be made Navigable betwixt *Severn* and *Trent*, and the other Papers relating to this Design.

I am,

SIR,

W. Hampton, *Feb.* 6. 1716-17. *Yours*, &c.

T. CONGREVE.

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The Diſtance and Fall of the Water from Alderſley *to* Burton *upon* Trent *is as Follows,*

From *Alderſley* to *Newmills* is

Miles.	*Furl.*	*Perch.*		*Feet.*	*Inch.*
2	1	25	Its Fall	20	0
			Thence to *Penkridge,*		
8	3	36	Fall	68	9
			From *Penkridge* to *Burton,*		
33	2	00	Fall	100	9
Total 43	7	21		189	6

In which Space are 17 Mills and Forges.

From *Alderſley* to *Newbridge*

Miles.	*Furl.*	*Perch.*		*Feet.*	*Inch.*
0	4	00	Its Fall	6	0
			Thence to *Preſtwood*		
12	5	00	Fall	175	0
			From *Preſtwood* to *Severn* is		
13	0	08	Fall	104	6
Total 26	1	08		285	6

In which Space are 25 Mills and Forges.

The

The Length of the Whole.

Miles.	*Perches.*		*Feet.*
70	29	Fall both Ways	475

There is upon the whole Length of the ſaid Water Forty two Mills and Forges.

The Fall of the Water in the Canal betwixt *Peterburg* and the *Wolga* both Ways (that is *Eaſt* and *Weſt*) is 555 Feet, which is more than the Fall of the Water of this Canal by eighty Feet. *vid.* Captain *Perry's* Account of *Ruſſia*.

In 475 Feet (the Fall of the *Penk* and *Smethſtall*) are 158 Yards one Foot, which will require 32 Locks, Wares and Turnpikes, each Lock, &c. being 5 Yards high, which is not equal in Number to the Locks upon the River betwixt *Letchlade* and *London*, which, in 138 Miles hath 36 Locks, Wares and Turnpikes.

A Canal from Severn *to* Trent *may be made*, viz.

Sixteen thouſand Acres, are in a Square, whoſe Side is five meaſur'd Miles; ſuch a Square ſeems to be betwixt *Eſington Windmill*, the Head of *Chillington* Mill-Pool and the

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the Tops of *Wrotteſle-Park*, *Tettenhall-Wood*, *W. Hampton*, and *Biſhbury Hills*.

Seven Brooks ariſe from the Springs and Rain-Waters that fall on theſe 16000 Acres, and may all be drawn into a Magazine in the *Moors* betwixt *Tunſtall* and *Penford*.

Five or ſix hundred Acres will be in this Magazine, if a Dam of 24 Foot high be made betwixt the new Mills at *Penford* and the Hill, in which is the Stone-Quarry, and another at the new Bridge of *Tettenhall* 10 Foot high.

Twelve Miles or leſs will be the Length of the Canal from *Tettenhall* to *Preſtwood*, where the *Smethſtall* meets the Water from *Stourbridge*, and ſo goes to *Severn*.

Eight Miles or leſs will be the Length of the Canal from *Penford* to *Penkridge*, from whence the River will eaſily be made navigable to *Burton*: The Land-Floods of theſe 16000 Acres that now are hurtful to Mills and Forges, by this Magazine will be made ſerviceable.

Seventy one Market-Towns and Cities may trade by this Canal; more may be added.

Two Brooks run into the *Pool* at *Goſebrook* Mill, from whence the Water will run both into *Severn* and *Trent*, whenever the Miller pleaſes.

Five

Five Brooks only feed the Magazine of St. *Feriol* in *Languedoc*, which hath 595 Acres in it, and ſupplies a Canal 64 *French* Leagues long. See, *Philoſ. Tranſact.* No. 56.

Two Millions and fifty thouſand Acres in the three Counties of *Stafford*, *Derby* and *Leiceſter*.

Twenty four Miles Inland Navigation only to theſe three Counties.

One Market-Town only out of forty hath Navigation in the three Counties.

Two hundred and fifty thouſand Pound *per Ann.* is got by Water-Carriage in the ſame Quantity of Land in the ſeven *Dutch* Provinces.

Two thouſand ſix hundred and twenty five Miles is the Length of the fifteen *Roman* Roads in *England* and *Wales*, many Parts of which are ſpoil'd for Want of Inland Navigation.

One thouſand Pound *per* Week is loſt out of the Iron Trade within ſix Miles of *Dudley* Caſtle.

One thouſand Tun of Coals might perhaps be ſold every Week more than now are in the three Counties, and as many of Lead, Lime, Iron, Stone, Timber, Marble, Fullers-Earth, Wool, *&c.* If a Canal were made betwixt *Severn* and *Trent* by *Penk* and *Stour*, then Clothiers might trade from *Burton* to *Kinſare*, and ſo to *Bridgwater*, &c.

One

One Tenth of the waſte Lands of the three Counties inclos'd, will be worth 10000*l.* *per Ann.* at 4*s.* *per* Acre, which will make a Canal, and keep poor Vicars, this Canal will make an eaſie and cheap Carriage betwixt the Weſtern and Northern Clothiers, and bring Fiſh living, in Well-Boats to ſupply theſe three Inland Counties.

300000*l.* *per Ann.* is, ſays Sir *Wm. Petty*, the Charge of the Land Carriage in *England*, one Third of which might probably be ſav'd if this Canal were made betwixt *Severn* and *Trent*, and another betwixt *Severn* and *Thames* by the *Bath* River, and Market-Towns have Corn, Cheeſe, *&c.* carry'd cheaper than by Horſes, and 2000*l.* *per* Week might be added to the Wages of the Labourers in Husbandry and Manufactory, the Money ſav'd by Water Carriage.

Nine Parts in ten of the Product of all till'd Lands, are owing to the Labour of Men and Horſes, ſays Mr. *Locke*, ſo that to take off many Men and Horſes from Husbandry to Land Carriage, muſt be a vaſt Damage to Husbandry, and no ſmall Damage to the Roads.

Two Miles and a half or more is the Length of the Magazine, in the Moors betwixt *Newbridge* and *Penford*, on the Weſt

Weſt Side of it, three Miles the Length of it on the Eaſt Side, it may contain 456 Acres.

Fifty Acres more might be added to it, by placing one Sluice on the *Dam-mill* Brook, out of the boggy Lands betwixt *Barnhurſt* and *Cronkwall*, and one other Sluice on the *Moſely* Brook, out of the boggy Lands betwixt *Penford* Wood and *Manſell-Newhouſe*, upon the Road betwixt *Wolver Hampton* and *Stafford*.

More Magazines may be made on the Brooks that come out of the Forreſt of *Cannock*, *&c.* which would fall into the Canal, tho' not into this Magazine.

Seven Mills upon the Brooks that would come into theſe Moors, to join the *Barnhurſt* Brook, *viz. Chillington*-Mill, *Dam*-Mill, *New*-Mill, *Seawall*-Mill, *Goſebrook*-Mill, *Tunſtall*-Mill, and *Fordhouſe*-Mill, all which depend upon Springs, and have but ſmall Pools except one.

If the Rains on theſe 16000 Acres that come into theſe Moors betwixt *Newbridge* and *Penford* are 36 Inches, which is leſs by ſix Inches than the Rains of *Lancaſhire* and *Cheſhire*, which join to Part of *Staffordſhire*, they are more than the Rains of *Liſle* by one Third, for their Rains are but 24 Inches, which help their Canal and that of *Mardyke*; and almoſt double to the Rains of

of *Paris*, which are 19 Inches, and perhaps to thoſe of *Briare*, which help to fill the Canal betwixt the two Rivers of *Paris* and *Orleans*.

The Rains on theſe 16000 Acres will probably fill this Magazine 12 times *per Ann*, 2 Yards deep.

The Depth of Rain Water, if it were to ſtagnate on the Earth, would amount, one Year with another at *Townley* in *Lancaſhire*, to 42 Inches and a half, at *Vpminſter* in *Eſſex* 19 Inches and a Quarter, at *Zurich* in *Switzerland* 32 Inches and a half, at *Piſa* in *Italy* 43 Inches and a Quarter, at *Paris* in *France* 19 Inches, and at *Liſle* in *Flanders* 24 Inches.

Forty Acres allow'd to each Canal and its Locks, ſo that the Magazine of 500 Acres will fill both the Canals, and their Locks, being 80 Acres, five or ſix times before its empty once.

N. B. That the Rains on the Weſt ſide of *England* are double to thoſe on the Eaſt ſide, and that this Magazine will not be 40 Miles from *Weſt-Cheſter*.

If this Canal were made and two or three more, its very probable that the ſame Number of working Horſes and their Drivers now employ'd in *England*, working the ſame Number of Hours every Day, may improve the Product of the Lands

Lands of *England* to be worth 1000000*l.* of Money *per Ann.* more than they are now. For the Horſes that might be ſpared from Carriage on the Roads, as alſo thoſe that carry Corn, *&c.* to Markets, might carry Marle, Lime, *&c.* which now lye uſeleſs in the Earth, for Improvement of Land, to make them produce much more Corn and Graſs, than they now do.

OBSER-

OBSERVATIONS Concerning the Rivers betwixt Oxford *and* Bath.

SIR *James Long*'s Objections were made new in 1683-4, which are ſaid to be anſwer'd in 1664 by Mr. *Ayliffe*, Mr. *Smith*, *&c.* who were for an *Inland Navigation* betwixt *Avon* and *Iſis*, by a Cut to be made from *Malmsbury* to *Summerford* upon *Iſis* near *Cricklade*.

Sixty thouſand Pounds computed by *Mathews* and *Baskerville* to be the Charge of the Canal from *Briſtol* to *Oxford*, tho' there may be Rocks to be cut thro'.

Three Pound per Ton the Price of Carriage by Land, and twenty Shillings per Ton by Water from *Oxford* to *London*.

Mr. *Hill* and Mr. *Rowland Vaughan* were ſaid to deſign this in Q. *Elizabeth*'s Time.

Judge *Vaughan* propoſes Projectors to be hang'd that did not finiſh any Navigation undertaken by Subſcription, if they miſapply'd the Money.

From *Cricklade* to *Purtonſtalke*, one Mile and a half thence to the Foot of *Purtonhill* one Mile and an half, thence to *Brinkworth* betwixt *Summerford* and *Malmsbury* to fall into the *Avon* ſeven Miles. Here may a Canal be cut.

A Boat might paſs from *London* to *Briſtol* in ten Days.

The

The Bill ſaid to paſs the Commons but ſtopt when twice read with the Lords.

Cromwell ſaid to offer 200001. at the *Navy-Office* to join the City of *London* in this deſigned Cut.

Matthews dedicates a Book about it to K. *Charles* II. *An.* 1670.

Vid. Mr. *Fridour*'s Book 1672 of the *Languedoc* Canal and *Philos. Trans. No.* 56. where is a Map of it.

Mr. *Collins* ſays, from Canals to water Grounds ſprinkled with Salt is vaſt Profit.

Capt. *Matthews* had a Private Seal for the Cut granted to him as he ſays by King *Charles* II.

Thirty ſix Locks, Wires and Turnpikes are upon the River *Thames* betwixt *London* and *Letchlade*, by which Navigation, *London* receives the Proviſions of Seven Counties, and ſends its Merchant-Goods to them.

It's humbly ſuppoſed that the ſame Number of Locks or fewer, may make good this Navigation betwixt *Severn* and *Trent*, and carry the Proviſions and Manufactories of ſeven Counties or more, to above 70 Market Towns and Cities.

93 Miles Engliſh is the Length of the Canal begun betwixt the *Don* and the *Wolga*, to make a Communication betwixt the *Caſpian* and the *Euxine* Seas.

The

The *Ladoga* Canal deſign'd for the Uſe of *Petersburg* 460 Engliſh Miles long, the Fall of the Rivers that fall into the *Wolga* 110 Feet, of thoſe that fall into the *Neva* (upon which another Dock is to be made) 445 Feet fall. Total 555.

Vid. Capt. *Perry's* Account of *Ruſſia.*

Four hundred ſeventy one thouſand one hundred and fifty four Men were employ'd to cut a Canal to draw down the Lake of *Mexico.* *Vid. Collection of Travels,* Vol. 4. page 531.

F I N I S.